

Message Text

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ACTION COA-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 DLOS-03 EB-04 COME-00 FMC-01 L-02

SCS-03 H-01 SCA-01 CG-00 DOTE-00 PRS-01 RSC-01 /025 W

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R 082045Z NOV 74

FM AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3475

INFO AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GUAYAQUIL 1267

BOGOTA PLS POUCH TO CALI

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, EFIS, EC

SUBJ: B&B FISHERIES: PATRICIA B

REF: A. GUAYAQUIL 1190; B. GUAYAQUIL 887

1. CONGEN COMMERCIAL OFFICER VISITED MANTA WEEKEND OF NOVEMBER 2. MEETING WITH PORT AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS, WHICH INCLUDED PORT CAPTAIN ABARCA, WAS HELD SATURDAY AFTERNOON. THREE CREW-MEMBERS OF PATRICIA B ALSO ATTENDED. OTHER AD HOC CONVERSATIONS TOOK PLACE THROUGHOUT WEEKEND.

2. AMCITS AGUST GUDJONSSON (BOAT OWNER) AND LLOYD D. OLSON HAVE RECENTLY RETURNED TO MANTA. GUDJONSSON CLAIMS HE WILL STAY UNTIL HE CAN LEAVE WITH PATRICIA B OR SELL IT. OLSON WILL APPARENTLY DO THE SAME. THIRD CREWMEMBER IS MARIO GARCIA - AN ECUADOREAN WHO HAS CLAIM TO US RESIDENCE. AMCITS SAY THEY HAVE ENOUGH FOR SUBSISTENCE FOR TIME BEING.

3. AS OF OCTOBER 31, PATRICIA B HAS ACCUMULATED PORT CHARGES OF \$2,069.04 RPT \$2,069.04 WHICH MUST BE PAID BEFORE BOAT CAN LEAVE. SUM REPRESENTS CHARGES FOR 191 DAYS SINCE APRIL 23 AT RATE OF \$10.80 PER DAY PLUS CHARGE OF \$6.24 FOR REGISTERED TONNAGE (RATED AT 103.84). PORT CHARGES OF \$10.80 PER DAY CALCULATED ACCORDING TO MANTA PORT REGULATIONS AT US 15 CENTRS PER TON.

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LATED ACCORDING TO MANTA PORT REGULATIONS AT US 15 CENTRS PER

LINEAR FOOT OF BOAT (PATRICIA B IS 72 FEET LONG). AS CONCES-
SION, PORT AUTHORITY HAS AGREED TO TEMPORARILY WAIVE FURTHER
FEES FOR PERIOD NOVEMBER 1-10 (OR 12) IN ORDER TO GIVE GUDJONS-
SON CHANCE TO CLEAR SLATE AND LEAVE.

4. ADDITIONAL COSTS ARE EXPECTED, HOWEVER, BECAUSE GUDJONSSON
REPORTS HE IS EXTREMELY LOW ON FUEL AND MUST BUY MORE LOCALLY
BEFORE HE CAN DEPART. HE IS RELUCTANT TO PURCHASE FUEL AT LOCAL
"INTERNATIONAL" PRICE OF APPROXIMATELY 56 CENTS PER GALLON WHEN
PRICE TO ECUADOREAN BOATS IS ONLY 14 CENTS, BUT PORT AUTHORITY
SO FAR APPEARS IN NO MOOD TO MAKE A CONCESSION RE FUEL PRICE.

5. BEGIN FYI: GUDJONSSON IS IN HIGHLY NERVOUS STATE. HIS
STATEMENTS RE AMOUNT OF FUNDS HE HAS TO EXTRICATE BOAT FROM MANTA
CONTINUE TO VARY AND HE APPEARS UNDECIDED AS TO COURSE OF ACTION,
I.E. WHETHER TO TRY TO RAISE MONEY TO SETTLE ACCOUNT, BUY GAS AND
LEAVE, OR ATTEMPT TO FIND LOCAL BUYER FOR BOAT. HE SAYS HE MUST
HAVE BEEN CRAZY TO GET MIXED UP WITH B&B IN FIRST PLACE AND IS
TEN MONTHS IN ARREARS TO A US CREDITOR IN PAYMENTS ON BOAT. IN
ADDITION, AT SATURDAY MEETING, GUDJONSSON COMPLAINED THAT PORT
CAPTAIN HAD IGNORED HIS REQUEST FOR ENOUGH GAS TO IDLE HIS
MOTORS AND TO MOVE THE BOAT FARTHER WITHIN HARBOR TO AVOID
BUFFETING AGAINST PIER AND OTHER B&B BOAT (TIED UP NEXT TO
PATRICIA B) WHICH HAS CAUSED, ACCORDING TO HIM, \$25,000 IN
DAMAGES SINCE "CAPTURE" BEGAN. BY END OF MEETING, PERMISSION
TO MOVE BOAT WAS OBTAINED AND GUDJONSSON ALSO RECEIVED OK FOR
300 GALLONS OF FUEL, WHICH IS WHAT HE ASKED FOR. HOWEVER, APP-
ARENT MISCALCULATION WAS MADE ON AMOUNT OF FUEL REQUIRED TO
COVER INTAKE VALVE AND GUDJONSSON AGAIN RAN OUT OF GAS. IN
SPITE OF BUFFETING PROBLEM, HE NOW REFUSES TO MOVE BOAT TO
ANCHOR WITHIN HARBOR CLAIMING THAT "...THEY DON'T LIKE ME
AROUND HERE AND SOMEONE MIGHT CUT MY ANCHOR ROPE, AND WITHOUT
ENOUGH GAS TO MAINTAIN POSITION OR TO MOVE THE BOAT WE WOULD
RUN ASHORE." GUDJONSSON IS ALSO CONCERNED THAT AFTER GRACE
PERIOD ON FEES ECUADOREANS "...WILL START CHARGING ME \$1,000 A
DAY*" END FYI.

6. AS OF NOVEMBER 6, GUDJONSSON SAYS HE HAS ENOUGH TO PAY PORT
CHARGES IN TRAVELLERS CHECKS AND SAYS HE WILL RADIO FRIENDS IN
US FOR ASSISTANCE WITH ADDITIONAL MONEY FOR FUEL. BECAUSE HE
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DOES NOT WANT TO PAY "OUTRAGEOUS" LOCAL FUEL PRICE OF 56 CENTS
A GALLON, HE PLANS TO BUY ENOUGH TO REACH TUMACO, COLOMBIA (JUST
ACROSS BORDER) WHERE HE SAYS COLOMBIAN PORT CAPTAIN HAS AGREED
BY RADIO TO SELL BALANCE HE NEEDS AT LOCAL PRICE OF 14 CENTS.

7. IF GUDJONSSON ACTUALLY HAS MONEY TO PAY PORT CHARGES, THEN
IT CLEARLY PREFERABLE FOR HIM TO OBTAIN ENOUGH FUEL AND LEAVE
SOONEST. ALTERNATIVE OF TRYING TO ARRANGE LOCAL SALE MAY NOT

SUCCEED AND AT BEST WILL BE TIME CONSUMING. ALTHOUGH THERE SEEMS TO BE SOME LOCAL MANTA INTEREST IN BUYING BOAT (GUDJONSON HAS SET PRICE AT \$250,000), MANTA BANKER SAYS OBTAINING CREDIT FOR THIS PURPOSE WILL BE DIFFICULT DUE TO POOR FISHING RESULTS IN LAST THREE YEARS. GUAYAQUIL CITIBANK MANAGER CONFIRMS THAT LOANS ON TUNA BOATS ARE HARD TO GET, ALTHOUGH BOTH BANKERS WILLING TO CONSIDER PROPOSAL ON ITS OWN MERITS IF RAISED.

8. NOV. 6 VICENTE TAMARIZ, MANAGER OF EPNA (EMPRESA PESQUERA NACIONAL) AND MIGUEL SEMINARIO, B&B LEGAL REP, INFORMED CG COMMERCIAL OFFICER THAT AT OCT. 24 COURT HEARING (REF A) B&B'S \$20,000 LETTER OF CREDIT ON DEPOSIT AT GUAYAQUIL BRANCH OF BANK OF AMERICA (REF B) WAS AWARDED TO EPNA. TAMARIZ SAID AS RESULT OF COURT ACTION EPNA HAD NO DESIRE DETAIN PATRICIA B AND COURT IS IN PROCESS OF OFFICIALLY INFORMING MANTA PORT CAPTAIN THAT PATRICIA B FREE TO GO FROM COURT'S POINT OF VIEW.
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